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Letter dated 19 February 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia regarding the brutal murder of Lieutenant Gurgen Margarian of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia by an Azerbaijani military officer on 19 February 2004 in Budapest, Hungary (see annex). Both officers were attending an English language training course within the framework of the NATO Partnership for Peace Programme.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Armen **Martirosyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

04-24493 (E) 200204

Annex to the letter dated 19 February 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Russian]

At 5.30 a.m. on 19 February, Lieutenant Gurgen Margarian of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia, posted to Budapest to participate in the NATO Partnership for Peace Programme's English language training course, was brutally murdered in his sleep — axed by an Azerbaijani military officer attending the same course. His attempt on the life of a second officer of the Armenia Armed Forces was blocked.

The murderer has been arrested by the Hungarian police. Representatives of the Armenian Embassy in Vienna are in Budapest, working with the police and monitoring the situation.

This crime is the logical consequence of the anti-Armenian hysteria that has been left unreined by the Azeri authorities over the years and of the warmongering militarist propaganda of recent months, which consistently infects all of Azeri society.

It is evident that such State policy has crossed the bounds, and that officials representing Azerbaijan abroad can commit cold-blooded murder.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia expresses its outrage and most vehemently condemns this crime. The Ministry expects that the international organizations will appropriately assess this crime and react. At the same time, we demand that the Hungarian authorities punish the perpetrator to the maximum extent of the law.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry expresses its condolences to the family, relatives and colleagues of Lieutenant Gurgen Margarian.